

The geological events previously described, although forming a connected series, may be divided into periods, each of which is marked by certain zoological characters; namely, 1st. The *modern*, or *human epoch*; 2d. the *elephantine*, characterised by the preponderance of large pachydermata; 3d. the *palæotherian*, in which animals allied to the tapir prevailed, and Europe presented a system of gulfs and lakes.

2. SECONDARY FORMATIONS.—I hasten to the consideration of another and antecedent geological epoch, — that which comprehends the Secondary Formations. Hitherto our attention has been principally directed to deposits confined within comparatively limited areas, as the basins of lakes, gulfs, estuaries, and inland seas; and accumulations of drifted materials produced by the action of torrents, rivers, and inundations. We have now arrived on the shores of that ocean, of whose spoils the existing islands and continents are principally composed; the fathomless depths of the ancient seas are spread before us, and the myriads of beings which sported in their waters, and lived and died in those profound abysses, remain, like the mummies of ancient Egypt, the silent yet eloquent teachers of their own eventful history.

A reference to the Tabular Arrangement of the Strata (Plate VII. and page 194) will show that the secondary formations constitute nine principal subdivisions, forming four natural groups, viz.